

The Gazette of India

सत्यमेव जयते

EXTRAORDINARY

PART II—Section 3

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 58] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1954

DELIMITATION COMMISSION, INDIA

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 15th March, 1954

S.R.O. 896.—In pursuance of clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952 (LXXXI of 1952), the Delimitation Commission hereby publishes its proposals in respect of the distribution of the seats allotted to the State of Manipur in the House of the People and the delimitation thereof in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (2) of the said section and specifies the 5th April, 1954, as the date on or after which the proposals will be further considered by it.

Any objections or suggestions in regard to these proposals should reach the Secretary of the Delimitation Commission (No. 2, Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi) before the said date. It would facilitate prompt consideration if they are in English.

The Commission will hold a public sitting at Imphal at 11-30 A.M. on Monday the 12th April, 1954, when it will further consider these proposals and the objections and suggestions received by it before the 5th April, 1954.

PROPOSALS

The territorial constituencies into which the State of Manipur shall be divided for the purpose of elections to the House of the People, the extent of each constituency, the

number of seats allotted to each constituency and the number of seats, if any, reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in each constituency shall be as shown in the following Table:—

TABLE—PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

Serial No.	Name of Constituency	Extent of Constituency	Total number of seats	Seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3	4	5
1	Inner Manipur	Sadar sub-division (excluding the area which formerly constituted the Mao sub-division); and Bishenpur tahsil of Thoubal sub-division.	1	Nil
2	Outer Manipur	Thoubal sub-division (excluding Bishenpur tahsil); Jiribam, Ukhrul, Churachandpur and Tamenglong sub-divisions; and the area which formerly constituted the Mao sub-division.	1	1

MINUTES OF DISSENT

We have to inform the Commission with regret that we are not in a position to agree with the proposals as set out in the draft notification. We also take note of the fact that the proposals as presented in their present shape or form are not new proposals as such, but the same proposals incorporating the same orders of the Election Commission under which the State of Manipur was divided for the purpose of elections in 1952 to the House of the People into two single member constituencies. It is worthwhile to mention, in this connection, that the orders of the Election Commission passed in that behalf relating to the distribution of the two seats allotted to the Manipur State in the House of the People to territorial constituencies and their delimitation, were much criticised and protested against by all sections of the public of the Manipur State. We propose to make some comments and also suggestions on the proposals so as to enable the Commission to come

to a final decision that will have to satisfy all sections of the public opinion. Our comments and suggestions are given below:—

That the State of Manipur is allotted two seats is by itself a special and extraordinary concession with a view to giving proper representation of the tribals as well as of the non-tribals which, normally speaking, could not be entitled to one seat, not to speak of two, taking into consideration the population of this State. That weightage should be given as less on population as possible than as much as on the spirit and object of the Peoples Representation Act under which Manipur has been allotted two seats, should be the guiding principle in delimiting the territorial constituencies and determining their population. The proposals as they are presented, are such that there are two single member constituencies namely Inner Manipur to elect a non-tribal and Outer Manipur to elect a tribal. In other words, the State of Manipur has been divided into two territorial constituencies—one for the tribals and the other for the non-tribals. In the Outer Manipur constituencies where a seat is allotted and that also a reserved seat for Scheduled Tribes, we have a population of 300,826, of which nearly 120,185, are non-tribals. The problem that awaits solution in this connection is whether the adults of so large a non-tribal population of 120,185, who have been given the right of franchise, should be deprived of the right to stand as candidates in their own constituency. Denial of candidature of a large section of the voters in general amounts to a negation of all canons of democracy. In the case of the other constituency of the general seat namely Inner Manipur the problem as such does hardly exist though it must be admitted on all hands that it being a non-tribal constituency the opportunity for the tribals however small their number might be to stand as candidates for the general seat is lacking although there is no legal bar against their doing so.

SUGGESTIONS

We are of the opinion that there are only two alternatives to solve the problems—one being that the State of Manipur be delimited as a double member constituency with reservation of one seat for the tribals. Whether this proposal is agreeable under the existing circumstances is a matter of conjecture. All the more, this should be such a matter which must be decided upon in deference to the majority and representative opinions of the tribals. And the other being that the State of Manipur be divided into two single member constituencies to be called Valley Constituency and Hill Constituency—each respectively comprising the valley and the hill areas, with little emphasis on the inequalities of the population in the respective constituencies, which, it is believed, will be quite in consonance with the spirit and object of the Peoples' Representation Act, 1952, under which Manipur has been allotted two seats. Under the existing circumstances we prefer the latter to the former and recommend the latter.

1. L. JOGESWAR SINGH, M.P.,

2. RISHANG KEISHING, M.P.,

Associate Members.

[No. 58/24/53]

P. S. SUBRAMANIAN,

Secretary.